



## Eastern governors could be model for California GOP comeback

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — California could witness a stunning turnabout in a nation of deeply polarized politics if the liberal state dumps Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and elects a Republican to fill his job in a September recall election. With the country's political center largely vanished, it's rare to see governors win elections on adversarial ground, making the notion of a Republican upset in one of the nation's Democratic strongholds seem implausible. Republicans haven't won a statewide race in California since 2006.

But there are exceptions: Republican governors have defied the odds in solidly Democratic territory — Vermont, Massachusetts and Maryland. Their suc-

cess looks even more striking when considering those states delivered the largest percentage victories for Joe Biden in the presidential election last year.

That could provide a dose of encouragement for Republican recall candidates, but the circumstances don't square neatly with California, starting with the unavoidable shadow of former President Donald Trump. Vermont Gov. Phil Scott, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan emphatically distanced themselves from Trump. Scott said he voted for Biden last year, Baker left his ballot blank and Hogan said he voted for Ronald Reagan, the former president who died in 2004.

Continued on next page



In this July 26, 2021 file photo Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks at a news conference in Oakland, Calif. Associated Press

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**Continued from Front**

"All three of those governors are pretty significant critics of Donald Trump," noted Kyle Kondik, an analyst at the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

In California, the leading GOP candidates have supported or have ties to Trump, who is widely unpopular in the state outside his conservative base. Trump lost California to Biden by over 5 million votes.

Newsom's campaign is anchored to the slogan "stop the Republican recall" — an attempt to cast the election as a solely partisan effort, which it is not. Newsom's chief political strategist routinely tweets a 2019 photograph of Republican candidate Kevin Faulconer, the former San Diego mayor, beside Trump at his desk in the Oval Office.

In California, "I think it would be hard to pitch yourself as a national kind of Republican" with Trump still exercising broad influence, Kondik added.

Marshall Cohen, political director at the Democratic Governors Association, said the California race is entirely different than the elections in Vermont, Massachusetts and Maryland. Those governors "have been able to strongly push back against Trump and



**In this Nov. 17, 2020, file photo, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan speaks at a news conference in Annapolis, Md.**

**Associated Press**

create political profiles outside the modern Republican Party," Cohen said.

The Trump conundrum — he remains popular with the GOP base — is perhaps best witnessed in Republican California candidate Caitlyn Jenner, the former Olympian and reality TV personality.

Jenner supported Trump in 2016 but later clashed with his administration over transgender issues. Yet Jenner's advisers have included former Trump campaign insiders. At her first news conference in July, she said

she didn't want Trump's endorsement.

"I hope the Republican Party comes to me and becomes more inclusive," she said.

Other top Republicans, including conservative talk radio host Larry Elder and businessman John Cox, who lost to Newsom in 2018, also were Trump supporters last year.

In an interview, Cox disputed that Trump was a force in the recall election, saying momentum to oust Newsom is coming from frustration with rising crime

rates, water and energy shortages and the return of coronavirus restrictions.

"I'm my own person, and this race is not about Trump," Cox said, arguing that Newsom is trying to use the former president as a political wedge "to get people angry all over again."

Elder, who is Black, has said that to Newsom's campaign, "everything is racism, dividing Americans."

In Massachusetts, Baker, a social moderate who supports reproductive rights, has sought to avoid the divide of national politics

and work across the political aisle, said his political adviser, Jim Conroy.

In an era of harsh partisanship in Washington, "it's that difference that makes him appealing to people," Conroy said.

With many voters unsettled by the pandemic and the status quo in Sacramento, Conroy thinks Republicans have an opening in California. If a candidate pairs a fiscally conservative agenda with calls for bipartisan solutions, "anyone can win with that message," he said. Vermont's Scott also supports reproductive rights, while Hogan has made his mark by focusing on taxes and the economy, largely steering around entanglements on social issues.

Among leading Republican candidates in California, their core message is reversing the progressive policies on school choice, virus restrictions and just about everything.

Some, however, also have spoken out on cultural issues: Elder and state Assemblyman Kevin Kiley have derided critical race theory, which centers on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation's institutions and that they function to maintain the dominance of white people in society. There are other differences with California. □





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# Fauci: More 'pain and suffering' ahead as COVID cases rise

By JONATHAN MATTISE

Dr. Anthony Fauci warned Sunday that more "pain and suffering" is on the horizon as COVID-19 cases climb again and officials plead with unvaccinated Americans to get their shots.

Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, also said he doesn't foresee additional lockdowns in the U.S. because he believes enough people are vaccinated to avoid a recurrence of last winter. However, he said not enough are inoculated to "crush the outbreak" at this point. Fauci's warning comes days after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changed course to recommend that even vaccinated people return to wearing masks indoors in parts of the U.S. where the delta variant is fueling infection surges. With the switch, federal health officials have cited studies showing vaccinated people can spread the virus to



Nurse Jennifer Ulloa administers a COVID-19 vaccine Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at the County's vaccination clinic in Whispering Pines, Calif.

Associated Press

others.

Most new infections in the U.S. continue to be among unvaccinated people. So-

called breakthrough infections can occur in vaccinated people, and though the vast majority of those

cause mild or no symptoms, the research shows they can carry about the same amount of the coronavirus

as those who did not get the shots.

"So we're looking, not, I believe, to lockdown, but we're looking to some pain and suffering in the future because we're seeing the cases go up, which is the reason why we keep saying over and over again, the solution to this is get vaccinated and this would not be happening," Fauci said on ABC's "This Week."

According to data through July 30 from Johns Hopkins University, the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases in the U.S. rose from 30,887 on July 16 to 77,827 on July 30. The seven-day rolling average for the country's daily new deaths rose over the same period from 253 on July 16 to 358 on July 30, though death reports generally lag weeks after infections and even longer after hospitalizations.

Currently, 58% of Americans 12 years and older are fully vaccinated, according to the CDC's data tracker. □

# Justice Department says Russians hacked federal prosecutors

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Russian hackers behind the massive SolarWinds cyberespionage campaign broke into the email accounts of some of the most prominent federal prosecutors' offices around the country last year, the Justice Department said.

The department said 80% of Microsoft email accounts used by employees in the four U.S. attorney offices in New York were breached. All told, the Justice Department said 27 U.S. attorney offices had at least one employee's email account compromised during the hacking campaign.

The Justice Department said in a statement Friday that it believes the accounts were compromised from May 7 to Dec. 27, 2020. Such a timeframe is notable because the SolarWinds campaign, which infiltrated dozens of private-sector companies and think tanks as well as at least nine U.S. government agencies, was first discov-

ered and publicized in mid-December.

The Biden administration in April announced sanctions, including the expulsion of Russian diplomats, in response to the SolarWinds hack and Russian interference in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Russia has denied wrongdoing.

Jennifer Rodgers, a lecturer at Columbia Law School, said office emails frequently contained all sorts of sensitive information, including case strategy discussions and names of confidential informants, when she was a federal prosecutor in New York.

"I don't remember ever having someone bring me a document instead of emailing it to me because of security concerns," she said, noting exceptions for classified materials.

The Administrative Office of U.S. Courts confirmed in January that it was also breached, giving the SolarWinds hackers another entry point to steal confiden-

tial information like trade secrets, espionage targets, whistleblower reports and arrest warrants.

The list of affected offices include several large and high-profile ones like those in Los Angeles, Miami, Washington and the Eastern District of Virginia.

The Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, where large numbers of staff were hit, handle some of the most prominent prosecutions in the country.

"New York is the financial center of the world and those districts are particularly well known for investigating and prosecuting white-collar crimes and other cases, including investigating people close to the former president," said Bruce Green, a professor at Fordham Law School and a former prosecutor in the Southern District.

The department said all victims had been notified and it is working to mitigate "operational, security and privacy risks" caused by the



This May 4, 2021 file photo shows a sign outside the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice building in Washington.

Associated Press

hack. The Justice Department said in January that it had no indication that any classified systems were affected.

The Justice Department did not provide additional detail about what kind of information was taken and what impact such a hack may have on ongoing cases. Members of Congress have expressed frustration with the Biden administration for not sharing more

information about the impact of the SolarWinds campaign.

The Associated Press previously reported that SolarWinds hackers had gained access to email accounts belonging to the then-acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and members of the department's cybersecurity staff, whose jobs included hunting threats from foreign countries. □



# Florida breaks record for COVID-19 hospitalizations

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — A day after it recorded the most new daily cases since the start of the pandemic, Florida on Sunday broke a previous record for current hospitalizations set more than a year ago before vaccines were available. The Sunshine State had 10,207 people hospitalized with confirmed COVID-19 cases, according to data reported to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The previous record was from July 23, 2020, more than a half-year before vaccinations started becoming widespread, when Florida had 10,170 hospitalizations, according to the Florida Hospital Association.

Florida is now leading the nation in per capita hospitalizations for COVID-19, as hospitals around the state report having to put emergency room visitors in beds in hallways and others document a noticeable drop in the age of patients. In the past week, Florida has averaged 1,525 adult hospitalizations a day, and 35 daily pediatric hospitalizations. Both are the highest per capita rate in the nation, according to Jason Salemi, an associate professor of epidemiology



**Raquel Heres gets a COVID-19 rapid test to be able to travel overseas, Saturday, July 31, 2021, in North Miami, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

at the University of South Florida. The hospitalizations and increasing cases have come as the new, more transmittable delta variant has spread throughout Florida, and residents have returned to pre-pandemic activities.

"The recent rise is both striking and not-at-all surprising," Salemi said in an email late Saturday.

Federal health data released Saturday showed that Florida reported 21,683

new cases of COVID-19, the state's highest one-day total since the start of the pandemic. The latest numbers were recorded on Friday and released on Saturday on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website. The figures show how quickly the number of cases is rising in the Sunshine State: only a day earlier, Florida reported 17,093 new daily cases.

Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has resisted

mandatory mask mandates and vaccine requirements, and along with the state Legislature, has limited local officials' ability to impose restrictions meant to stop the spread of COVID-19. DeSantis on Friday barred school districts from requiring students to wear masks when classes resume next month.

Florida's Democratic agriculture commissioner, Nikki Fried, who is seeking to run against DeSantis for governor, on Sunday urged

unvaccinated Floridians to get the shots. She said she was heartened by a recent uptick in vaccinations in the state.

"We are already behind the curve and in a worse spot every time the numbers come out," Fried said at a news conference in Tallahassee. "This surge is and will impact every single one of us."

Throughout Florida, from Jacksonville to Miami to Tampa, hospitals have become overwhelmed.

Barry Burton, the Pinellas County administrator, told the Tampa Bay Times that some local hospitals are already having to divert ambulances to different locations because of capacity concerns.

There has been a startling rise in the number of children with the virus at hospitals in Miami, many of them requiring intensive care.

Memorial Health's Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood had seven patients with COVID-19. At Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, there were 17 patients with COVID-19 on Friday, including six in the ICU and one who needed a ventilator. Dr. Marcos Mestre, vice president and chief medical officer, told the Miami Herald. □

## Bishop: Albany diocese covered up priest abuse for decades



**This photo from Wednesday Feb. 25, 2004, shows Bishop Howard Hubbard swinging incense during an Ash Wednesday communion service at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, N.Y.**

**Associated Press**

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)** — The longtime former head of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany says the

diocese covered up sexual abuse by priests for decades and protected clergy by sending them to

private treatment instead of calling police.

Bishop Howard Hubbard, who ran the diocese in New York's Capital District from 1977 to 2014 and has himself been accused of sexual abuse, made the admission in a statement issued through his lawyer to the Albany Times-Union in response to questions from the newspaper.

The Times Union reported Hubbard's statement on Saturday.

"When an allegation of sexual misconduct against a priest was received in the 1970s and 1980s, the common practice in the Albany diocese and elsewhere was to remove the priest from ministry temporarily

and send him for counseling and treatment," Hubbard said. "Only when a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist determined the priest was capable of returning to ministry without reoffending did we consider placing the priest back in ministry," he added. "The professional advice we received was well-intended but flawed, and I deeply regret that we followed it." About 300 lawsuits have been filed against the Albany diocese under a state law that allows people until Aug. 14 to sue over sexual abuse they say they endured as children, sometimes decades ago. In the past, the 82-year-old Hubbard has denied

allegations that he sexually abused minors. In an August 2019 statement, he said: "I have never sexually abused anyone in my life. I have trust in the canonical and civil legal processes and believe my name will be cleared in due course." Responding to allegations in lawsuits that he ignored, disregarded or covered up abuse by others, Hubbard told the Times Union in his statement that he was a leader on church efforts to prevent abuse, including support for background checks and compensation for victims.

Hubbard's statement was not sanctioned by the diocese, the newspaper reported. □



# Kim's sister warns S. Korea-U.S. drills will rekindle tensions

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned Sunday that next month's annual military drills between South Korean and U.S. troops will undermine prospects for better ties between the Koreans, just days after the rivals reopened their long-dormant communication channels. Kim Yo Jong's statement carried by state media targets only South Korea, and this could add credence to a theory that North Korea's decision to restore the communication lines is mainly aimed at pushing Seoul to convince Washington to make concessions while nuclear diplomacy remains deadlocked.

"For some days I have been hearing an unpleasant story that joint military exercises between the South Korean army and the U.S. forces could go ahead as scheduled," Kim Yo Jong said.

"I view this as an undesirable prelude which seriously undermines the will of the top leaders of the North and the South wishing to see a step taken toward



In this Feb. 10, 2018, file photo, Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, right, and North Korea's nominal head of state Kim Jong Nam, wait for the start of the preliminary round of the women's hockey game between Switzerland and the combined Koreans at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea.

Associated Press

restoring mutual trust and which further beclouds the way ahead of the North-South relations," she said.

She added: "Our government and army will closely follow whether the South Korean side stages hostile war exercises in August or makes other bold decision."

Regular drills between Seoul and Washington

have been a long-running source of animosities on the Korean Peninsula, with North Korea calling them an invasion rehearsal and responding with missile tests. South Korea and the U.S. have repeatedly said their drills are defensive in nature.

In the past few years, South Korea and the U.S. have

canceled or downsized some of their exercises to support diplomatic efforts to end the North Korean nuclear crisis or because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Asked about prospects for next month's summertime drills, Boo Seung-Chan, a spokesman at South Korea's Defense Ministry, told a briefing Thursday that

Seoul and Washington were reviewing factors like the pandemic's current status, efforts to achieve denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and their combined military readiness.

The U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at persuading North Korea to abandon its nuclear program in return for economic and political rewards hasn't made progress since a second summit between Kim Jong Un and then-President Donald Trump broke down because of disputes over U.S.-led sanctions in early 2019. South Korea's government led by President Moon Jae-in, which wants greater reconciliations between the Koreans, had earlier shuffled between Pyongyang and Washington to arrange the first summit between Trump and Kim.

But North Korea later resumed harsh rhetoric against South Korea, telling it not to meddle in its dealings with the United States. In June last year, Pyongyang also cut off communication lines with Seoul and destroyed an empty, South Korean-built liaison office on its territory. □

# Tunisian leader: Young are paid to migrate, harm Europe ties

By BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) —

Tunisia's leader claimed Sunday that some desperate youths are being paid to try to leave Tunisia illegally for Europe, saying the goal is to damage the country from within and hurt its ties with Europe.

President Kais Saied made the remarks during a stroll down the iconic Avenue Bourguiba, the main axis in the Tunisian capital of Tunis, a week after firing the prime minister and other top officials and freezing parliament. He listened to passersby calling out his name and shouting "Tunisia!" but said nothing about his much-awaited next steps.

Many fear Tunisia's fragile democracy is in danger without a clear map of

how the president plans to restore democracy. It is the only nation to develop a democracy after the Arab Spring uprisings.

Instead, Saied denounced those who exploit migrants, as hundreds of youths leave Tunisia in the warm season to try to make their way by smugglers' boats to Europe. He claimed that some of his countrymen with political motives are paying desperate youth to make the trip, saying their intention is to repeat the mass illegal migration that began after the Tunisian revolution a decade ago.

"There are people who hurt Tunisia. I ask myself how they could make 1,500 youths leave," he was heard saying in a video released by his office.

"They give them money so

that they leave. Those people exploit misery and want a remake of what happened in 2011," Saied said. "They are hurting Tunisia's relations with Italy, Europe and other countries." Saied made the same assertion earlier Sunday when he formally accepted 1.5 million doses of anti-COVID-19 vaccines from Italy, warning against any "political exploitation" of the country's youths.

The president did not make clear who were using youths to allegedly harm the North African country. The Tunisian Coast Guard picked up 31 Tunisian youths on Sunday, a day after stopping three attempted crossings and seizing five small boats and a large sum of money. A total of 188 migrants, 56 of whom



Tunisian President Kais Saied waves to bystanders as he stroll along the avenue Bourguiba in Tunis, Tunisia, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021.

Associated Press

were Tunisian, were saved, while 11 other attempts to embark on the journey to Europe were stopped, according to the Interior Ministry.

Meanwhile, dozens of migrants, most of them from Tunisia, reached the Italian island of Sardinia over the weekend, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. □



# U.S., UK and Israel blame Iran for ship attack; Tehran denies

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — The United States and the United Kingdom joined Israel on Sunday in alleging Iran carried out a fatal drone strike on an oil tanker off the coast of Oman in the Arabian Sea, putting further pressure on Tehran as it denied being involved in the assault.

Calling it a "unlawful and callous attack," British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said his country and its allies planned a coordinated response over the strike Thursday night on the oil tanker Mercer Street. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken soon followed, saying there was "no justification for this attack, which follows a pattern of attacks and other belligerent behavior."

The strike on the Mercer Street marked the first-known fatal attack after years of assaults on commercial shipping in the region linked to tensions with Iran over its tattered nuclear deal. While no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, Iran and its militia allies have used so-called "suicide" drones in attacks previously, which crash into targets and detonate their explosive payloads. However, Israel, the U.K. and the responding U.S. Navy have yet to show physical evidence from the strike or offer intelligence information on why they blame Tehran.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett went further than Blinken and Raab in his remarks Sunday at a Cabinet meeting, making a point to stare directly into the camera and slowly warn: "We know, at any rate, know how to convey the message to Iran in our own way."

The drone attack blasted a hole through the top of the oil tanker's bridge, where the captain and crew command the vessel, a U.S. official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as an investigation into the attack still was ongoing. The blast killed two crew members from the United Kingdom and Romania. The Navy said the American nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and the guided missile destroyer USS Mitscher had escorted the Mercer Street as it headed to a safe port. On Sunday, satellite-tracking information from MarineTraffic.com showed the tanker stopped off the coast of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates.

In his statement, Raab said it was "highly likely" Iran attacked the tanker with one or more drones. "We believe this attack was deliberate, targeted and a clear violation of international law by Iran," he said. "Iran must end such attacks, and vessels must be allowed to navigate freely in accordance with international law."



This Jan. 2, 2016 photo shows the Liberian-flagged oil tanker Mercer Street off Cape Town, South Africa.

Associated Press

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Blinken similarly described the U.S. as "confident" Iran carried out the attack, using multiple drones. "These actions threaten freedom of navigation through this crucial waterway, international shipping and commerce, and the lives of those on the vessels involved," he said in a statement.

Earlier, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh described the allegation Iran carried out the attack as "baseless." "It's not the first time that the Zionist regime occupying Jerusalem has made such empty accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Khatibzadeh said. "Wherever this regime has gone, it has taken instability, terror and violence with it."

He added: "Whoever sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind." Khatibzadeh spoke around an hour after Iran's outgoing president acknowledged that his government at times "did not tell part of the truth" to the public during his term.

From Jerusalem, Bennett offered condolences to both the United Kingdom and Romania for the killing of their citizens. He said Israeli intelligence had evidence linking Iran to the attack, but did not offer it. "Iran is the one who carried out the attack against the ship," he said. "Iran's aggressive behavior is dangerous not only for Israel, but harms global interests in the freedom of navigation and international trade."

Other Israel-linked ships have been targeted in recent months as well amid a shadow war between the two nations, with Israeli officials blaming the Islamic Republic for the assaults. Shipping in the region began being targeted in the summer of 2019, about a year after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Israel meanwhile has been suspected of conducting a series of major attacks in Iran and on Iranian shipping. Also, Iran saw its largest warship recently sink under mysterious circumstances in the nearby Gulf of Oman. □

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# Hamas re-elects Ismail Haniyeh as supreme leader



In this June 28, 2021 file photo, Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas, flashes the victory sign after his meeting with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, in Beirut, Lebanon.

Associated Press

**By WAFSA SHURFA**

**Associated Press**

**GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)** — The Islamic militant group Hamas on Sunday said it has re-elected its supreme leader.

Ismail Haniyeh, who has been living in exile for the past two years, was given a new four-year term by the Shura Council, the Islamic group's top decision-making body. He was unopposed. Haniyeh is a former aid to Hamas' founder, Ahmed Yassin, who was assassi-

nated in an Israeli airstrike in 2004. He served as the Palestinian prime minister after Hamas won parliamentary elections in 2006 — a year before the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza from the rival Fatah-led forces of President Mahmoud Abbas. He served as Hamas' leader in the group's Gaza stronghold before being elected as head of the movement in 2017.

Haniyeh left Gaza in 2019 and has split his time between Turkey and Qatar. He has not said whether he will return.

Hamas is an Islamic movement that seeks Israel's destruction. Since taking control of Gaza in 2007, the group has fought four wars against Israel, most recently in May, and numerous smaller battles over the years. The repeated fighting, combined with an Egyptian-Israeli blockade, has decimated Gaza's economy, with unemployment hovering around 50%. □

He has not said whether he will return. Hamas is an Islamic movement that seeks Israel's destruction. Since taking control of Gaza in 2007, the group has fought four wars against Israel, most recently in May, and numerous smaller battles over the years.





## Tourists, villagers flee as wildfires ravage Turkish resorts

**MAZIKOY, Turkey (AP)** — Wildfires raged near Turkey's holiday beach destinations of Antalya and Mugla and in the surrounding countryside for a fifth day Sunday as the discovery of more bodies raised the death toll to eight while villagers lost their homes and animals. Residents and tourists fled the danger in small boats while the coast guard and two navy ships waited out at sea in case a bigger evacuation was needed.

Fires also enveloped Mugla province's Mazikoy, and villagers who evacuated were devastated.

Farmer Nurten Almaz said she lost everything. "I feel so much pain, like I lost a child," she said. The 63-year-old woman lost her animals and her home as well as "one century of people's labor." She called for the death penalty for people who may have caused the fire.

Residents had to flee nearby Cokertme village as flames neared. Some got on boats and others left by cars as the fire got closer and closer. In one video, firetrucks and cars were rushing to escape fire raging on all sides. After nightfall, the village looked apocalyptic from a distance, with flames taking over the dark hills.

Bodrum mayor Ahmet Aras said Sunday evening that people experienced "hell" near Cokertme and Mazi as they drove away from the fire. He said the blaze could not be stopped and hoped to protect residential areas but said it was too late for the trees.

The area was engulfed by Sunday night, Turkish broadcasters said. Reporters said they had to get hurry to safety as the fire intensified with strong winds. Officials

said precautions were being taken to protect two thermic power plants in the vicinity and at present the winds were blowing away from the plants.

Authorities warned tourists and residents to keep evacuating Turunc, a town in the seaside resort of Marmaris in Mugla province. Fires enveloped the area and strong winds made firefighting efforts more difficult. A helicopter attempted to extinguish the blazes, which were unreachable by land.

Aerial firefighting was not possible Sunday night and the fires raged, burning hectares (acres) of forests. Forestry official Mustafa Ozkaya said units continued to fight fires strategically, digging ditches and taking other measures. He said eight planes and 50 helicopters would fly in Mugla on Monday.

The European Commission announced it helped mobilized one firefighting Canadian plane from Croatia and two from Spain to aid Turkey. Planes from Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran have been helping.

Watching from out in the Mediterranean Sea, the area looked a bright orange.

As residents of villages around Marmaris pleaded for more help on social media, people boarded small boats carrying suitcases. Others waited anxiously to see if the fire would come down to the shore.

High temperatures and strong winds were making matters worse. Antalya registered 42 degrees Celsius (over 107 degrees Fahrenheit), about 5 to 6 degrees C higher than seasonal averages.

Earlier Sunday, police water cannons, usually used to control riots, helped he-



Tourists wait to be evacuated from smoke-engulfed Mazi area as wildfires rolled down the hill toward the seashore, in Bodrum, Mugla, Turkey, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021.

Associated Press

icopters and fire trucks in Mugla's popular district of Bodrum to fight fires. Turkish television showed fires had reignited after being extinguished earlier, with flame and smoke approaching a village. Social media videos showed tourists in Bodrum scampering down streets rolling their luggage to escape the nearby flames.

The health minister, Fahrettin Koca, said at least 27 people affected by the fires were still receiving treatment in hospitals while hundreds of others had been released. □



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# LOCAL



## MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Center Visit our newest Location on Palm Beach!

**PALM BEACH —** MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Center just opened a third walk-in location on Palm Beach at Budget Car Rental next to Soprano's Piano Bar. The other two locations are at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill.

All three fit2fly test centers offer your best option for the post vacation COVID-19 test which has been a requirement since January 26th 2021 by the U.S. before returning home. All passengers going to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative (antigen or PCR) COVID-19 test result of a test taken maximum three days prior to boarding the flight, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. MedCare's testing centers in and close to the hotels provide you with an easy and secure solution.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that is specialized in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

### Rapid PCR

As Aruba resumes to receive more and more visitors each month, one thing has become very clear: testing is critical. Thus far MedCare Clinic has been offering high-volume laboratory testing with results in 24 hours or less. The newest service on the market is Rapid PCR, where you receive your results in minutes not hours.

### Just steps away from you

The Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers are located at the Cove Mall, near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill, and now also at Budget car rental next to Soprano's Piano Bar. These three locations at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome. It is recommended that the tests



are done timely, as the negative test is only accepted if taken up to three days before boarding your flight. MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 10 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:30 AM until 2 PM. The Newest location at Budget Car Rental next to Soprano's Piano Bar is open daily from 5 PM to 9 PM.

### At your hotel

For a selection of hotels/resorts in Aruba, MedCare has setup Testing Centers on site. The hotels/resorts at which we have a testing site are: Divi All Inclusive, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Golf, Divi Phoenix, Divi Tamarijn, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, Hyatt Regency, Renaissance, and the Ritz-Carlton Resort. Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

### Costs and timing

Passengers must be tested with a viral test that could be either an Antigen Test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The price for the Antigen Test is only \$50, and the PCR Test is available, for \$125. The new rapid PCR will be \$150 (results in 30 minutes.) MedCare offers the easier and substantially cheaper Antigen Test that is acceptable for travel to the U.S. as per the CDC guidelines. Pre-travel testing is not covered by the Aruban visitor insurance. Please contact your insurance company to verify if test-

ing costs are insured. Results are e-mailed to you within 24 hours of testing.

### Private bookings

For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person. □



### For more information, please contact:

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## The Aruban Financial Sector, solid and resilient, has weathered the unprecedented economic storm caused by the Covid-19 pandemic remarkably well

**ORANJESTAD - The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) publishes its FINANCIAL SECTOR SUPERVISION REPORT 2020. This year's Financial Sector Supervision Report provides an overview of the most important developments in the supervisory and regulatory domains in Aruba in 2020, a year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. First and foremost, this pandemic caused a considerable and regrettable loss of life that deeply shocked the Aruban community. In addition, it has had an immense negative impact on the economy of Aruba. Similar to governments in other countries, the Government of Aruba had to take draconian measures to reduce the risk of a widespread outbreak of the virus.**

### Aruba's financial sector showed high resiliency during the COVID-19 pandemic

In the face of one of the most impactful economic crises that Aruba has ever experienced, the local financial sector showed strong resilience. This resilience held up, also when compared to some other countries in the Caribbean basin, whose financial sectors were less prepared to weather this unprecedented storm. The resilience of Aruba's financial sector is evidenced by the strong prudential ratios in the areas of capital adequacy, asset quality, and liquidity of the supervised sectors, which stayed within sound ranges.

### Banks provided general moratoria and tailor-made loan restructuring solutions

Anticipating the huge effects of the public health measures on the financial sector, the CBA responded quickly by implementing, amongst other things, temporary relief measures in the prudential area aimed at supporting the commercial banks so they could continue their lending activities and strengthen their ability to absorb losses without their ratios falling below the prudential requirements. These relief measures also incentivized the banks to provide general moratoria to their lenders. After the termination of these general moratoria, the banks offered tailored loan restructuring solutions to those clients that they assessed had the ability to survive the economic crisis, thereby preventing unnecessary bankruptcies.

### Ample capital and liquidity buffers

The ample capital and liquidity buffers built-up over the years, as well as the CBA's strict oversight, have been instrumental in maintaining a solid and reputable financial sector. The temporary prudential relief measures taken by the CBA were also supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its recently issued Article IV Consultation Report on Aruba dated April 12, 2021. The IMF report confirmed as well that Aruba's commercial banking sector and other parts of the financial sector have remained solid. The importance of maintaining a solid financial sector should not be easily overestimated. The size of the financial sector's assets has reached approximately Afl 13.0 billion (equivalent to

USD 7.3 billion) at end-2020, almost three times the size of Aruba's estimated nominal gross domestic product for 2020.

The quality of the commercial banks' loan portfolios declined slightly when expressed in the nonperforming loan ratio, which rose from 3.2 percent at the end of 2019 to 5.0 percent at end-2020 and stayed at an acceptable level. Furthermore, the commercial banking sector, on aggregate, remained profitable, while the capital and liquidity buffers remained at a very satisfactory level. Also, the insurance and pension fund sectors con-

tinued to comply with the minimum required coverage ratio, and, thus, their ability to meet their future insurance and pension obligations continued intact. The COVID-19 pandemic has undeniably shown the importance of having ample capital and liquidity buffers in place to navigate through unprecedented times like these.

### Further strengthening of the legal framework in the AML/CFT area

With respect to further enhancing the legal framework in the AML/CFT area and bringing it up to par with recognized international standards, the CBA

stresses the importance of having the still pending revised draft State Ordinance on the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT State Ordinance) enacted by the Aruban Parliament as soon as possible. This recommendation also is made in light of the upcoming evaluation by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) of the effectiveness of Aruba's AML/CFT framework, which will start around the end of August 2021.

Continued on Page 10

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## The Aruban Financial Sector...

Continued from Page 9

### Importance of the upcoming CFATF evaluation

A positive outcome of the upcoming CFATF evaluation is critically important. Insufficient compliance with the international standards issued by the FATF in the area of anti-money laundering and combating terrorist financing may lead to graylisting or blacklisting of a country. Such an action would be detrimental for a small island economy like Aruba. A highly undesired consequence of such listing also could be the loss of international correspondent bank relations (the so-called de-risking), making it very difficult and much more costly for businesses and consumers to conduct

international bank transfers for, e.g., import payments. The AML/CFT legislation, as well as the firm oversight and enforcement carried out by the CBA, have been instrumental in maintaining the excellent international reputation of Aruba's financial sector. In contrast to many other jurisdictions in this region, the local commercial banking sector has to date been little affected by the aforementioned de-risking phenomenon. De-risking occurs when international banks in North America and Europe end their correspondent relations with banks in countries or regions perceived as a high risk for money laundering. Regrettably, different banks in our region that do not form part of an interna-

tional banking group have been affected by the de-risking phenomenon.

Therefore, the opinions expressed from time to time in the (social) media that the oversight of the CBA is much too strict and that the fines imposed are over the top do not take into account the prevailing international FATF standards and the severe consequences of noncompliance with these high standards for the Aruban community.

The FINANCIAL SECTOR SUPERVISION REPORT 2020 is available on the website of the CBA [www.cbaruba.org](http://www.cbaruba.org). □

## Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost

**Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mango's hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.**

### Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.



When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

### Konkomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Konkomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round. □



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# Ammunition shelves bare as U.S. gun sales continue to soar

By **MARTHA BELLISLE**

**SEATTLE (AP)** — The COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with record sales of firearms, has fueled a shortage of ammunition in the United States that's impacting law enforcement agencies, people seeking personal protection, recreational shooters and hunters -- and could deny new gun owners the practice they need to handle their weapons safely.

Manufacturers say they're producing as much ammunition as they can, but many gun store shelves are empty and prices keep rising. Ammunition imports are way up, but at least one U.S. manufacturer is exporting ammo. All while the pandemic, social unrest and a rise in violent crime have prompted millions to buy guns for protection or to take up shooting for sport.

"We have had a number of firearms instructors cancel their registration to our courses because their agency was short on ammo or they were unable to find ammo to purchase," said Jason Wuestenberg, executive director of the National Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors Association.

Doug Tangen, firearms instructor at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, the police academy for the state, said the academy also has had trouble obtaining ammo.

"A few months ago, we were at a point where our shelves were nearly empty of 9mm ammunition," he said. In response, instructors took conservation steps like reducing the number of shots fired per drill, which got them through several months until fresh supplies arrived, Tangen said.

Officer Larry Hadfield, a spokesman for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, said his department also has been affected by the shortage. "We have made efforts to conserve ammunition when possible," he said.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, an industry trade group, says



In this July 16, 2019, file photo, officers taking part in training load gun clips with ammunition at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission in Burien, Wash.

Associated Press

more than 50 million people participate in shooting sports in the U.S. and estimates that 20 million guns were sold last year, with 8 million of those sales made by first-time buyers.

"When you talk about all these people buying guns, it really has an impact on people buying ammunition," spokesman Mark Oliva said. "If you look at 8.4 million gun buyers and they all want to buy one box with 50 rounds, that's going to be 420 million rounds."

The FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System database also documented an increase in sales: In 2010, there were 14.4 million background checks for gun purchases. That jumped to almost 39.7 million in 2020 and to 22.2 million just through June 2021 alone.

The actual number of guns sold could be much higher since multiple firearms can be linked to a single background check. No data is available for ammunition because sales are not regulated and no license is required to sell it.

As the pandemic raced across the country in early 2020, the resulting lockdown orders and cutbacks on police response sowed safety fears, creating an

"overwhelming demand" for both guns and ammo, Oliva said. Factories continued to produce ammunition, but sales far exceeded the amount that could be shipped, he said.

"Where there is an increased sense of instability, fear and insecurity, more people will purchase guns," said Ari Freilich of the Gifford Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

As supplies dwindled, Feilich said, some gun owners began stockpiling ammo.

"Early on in the pandemic, we saw people hoarding toilet paper, disinfectant, and now it's ammo," he said.

Wuestenberg emphasized the danger in first-time gun buyers not being able to practice using their new weapons.

Going to the gun range entails more than trying to hit a target, he said. It's where shooters learn fundamental skills like always pointing their guns in a safe direction and keeping their fingers off the trigger until they're ready to fire.

"It's that old adage: Just because you buy a guitar doesn't mean you're a guitar player," Wuestenberg said. "Some have the misconception of 'I shot this target 5 yards away and did just fine so I'm OK

if someone breaks into my house.' You've got to go out and practice with it."

The U.S. military is not affected by the shortage because the Army produces ammunition for all branches of the military at six sites across the country, according to Justine Barati, spokesperson for the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command.

The U.S. shooting team, which won four medals at the Tokyo Olympics, also had the ammo needed to train thanks to a commitment from sponsors, but membership and junior programs have struggled, said Matt Suggs, chief executive officer for USA Shooting.

The U.S. Biathlon team, training for the 2022 Winter Olympics in February, also has been supplied with ammo from its sponsor, Lapua, made in Finland. But local clubs face shortages, said Max Cobb, president of U.S. Biathlon Association. Jason Vanderbrink, a vice president at Vista Outdoor, which owns the Federal, CCI, Speer and Remington ammunition brands, said the companies are shipping ammo as fast as they can make it.

"I'm tired of reading the misinformation on the internet right now about us not trying to service the demand

that we're experiencing," he said in a YouTube video produced for customers aimed at quashing speculation suggesting otherwise. Imports of ammunition from Russia, South Korea, the European Union and others were up 225% over the past two years, according to an analysis by Panjiva Inc., which independently tracks global trade. But at least some U.S.-made ammo is heading out of the country.

Winchester has logged 107 shipments since January 2020, according to Panjiva. Most went to Australia to fulfill a contract Winchester secured with NIOA, the country's largest small-arms supplier. Nigel Everingham, NIOA's chief operating officer, said he could not disclose how much ammo Winchester is supplying.

A few shipments also went to Belgium and Israel.

Meanwhile, most of the ammunition pictured on the website for Champion's Choice, a gun store in LaVergne, Tennessee, is listed as "out of stock."

"We keep ammo on order but we're not sure when it's going to come available," sales manager Kyle Hudgens said. "It does put us in a bad position with our customers. They're asking what the deal is."

And Bryan Lookabaugh at Renton Fish & Game's skeet and trap range in Renton, Washington -- where shooters try to hit discs flying at 35 to 70 mph -- said the limited availability means fewer people show up for shooting practice and some couldn't participate in a recent competition.

"We have not had a full shipment in a year," he said. Duane Hendrix, the range master at the Seattle Police Athletic Association, a police and civilian gun range in Tukwila, Washington, said he now limits ammo sales to two boxes per customer. "I've never seen anything like it before," Hendrix said. "There's stuff we can't get, especially rifle ammo. If you don't have ammo for your customers, there's no point in having your doors open." □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 41 Golf pegs

1 Group of actors

5 Informal farewell

9 Tall boot

10 Make ashamed

12 Battery end

13 In itself

14 Goal

16 Buddhism branch

17 Fencing sword

18 Chances to hit

21 Crimson

22 Empties out

23 Release

24 Pilfers

26 Fall mo.

29 Snoopy, for one

30 "Gone With the Wind" plantation

31 Screw up

32 Runway material

34 Stand

37 Minor mistake

38 Serpent

39 Wastes time

40 Over again

## DOWN

1 Party nibble

2 Found darling

3 Grassy plant

4 Grove

5 Keg need

6 Lincoln nickname

7 Lord of the jungle

8 Good qualities

9 Bottled buy

11 Coop group

15 Small pie

19 Gift

attach-ments

20 Life story, for short

22 Bargain

23 Table part

24 Tennis star

25 Kilt

26 Try out

27 Makes

blank

28 Shows

nervous-ness

29 Pleads

30 Barter

33 Stepped

down

35 Luau

instrument

36 Chapel

seat

R	E	B	A		E	P	I	C	S
I	M	A	G	E	A	E	S	O	P
S	A	L	E	M		S	T	O	W
K	I	T		P	U	T		B	A
S	L	I	C	E	S		C	A	R
	S	C	O	R	E	C	A	R	D
			C	O	L	O	N		
	S	H	O	R	E		W	A	R
W	H	O	A		S	P	L	E	E
A	R	R		U	S	O		A	P
L	I	N	E	N		K	A	P	O
K	N	E	A	D		E	V	E	R
S	E	T	T	O		A	R	T	S

Saturday's answer

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9						10				11
12						13				
14					15			16		
17					18	19	20			
21				22						
			23							
	24	25					26	27	28	
29							30			
31					32	33				
34			35	36		37				
38						39				
	40					41				

8-2

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

V U T A N A B M T V X N T W M R O W E

B U U Z N T N U T A N A B F M A D U K

Z U N A U T U I N T B M D D M V B H O D

D N I M — H T P T U K T

Saturday's Cryptoquote: A HORSE THAT CAN COUNT TO TEN IS A REMARKABLE HORSE. NOT A REMARKABLE MATHEMATICIAN. — SAMUEL JOHNSON



This image released by A24 shows Dev Patel in a scene from "The Green Knight."

Associated Press

## Review: In 'The Green Knight,' an enchanting Arthurian dream

By JAKE COYLE  
AP Film Writer

Why, for starters, is the Green Knight green? It's a question that's long vexed scholars of the 14th century chivalric romance "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight." The movie, like the epic poem, is full of mysteries, most of them unspoken. But the knight's unlikely color — Why isn't he a more typical knightly blue? — is a question voiced by the characters of David Lowery's adaptation, "The Green Knight." He's green, answers Dev Patel's Sir Gawain, because it's the shade of rot.

The Green Knight, as seen in Lowery's enchanting Arthurian dream, is an imposing tree of a man, with a wispy beard of twigs and a wooden mane whose movements rustle with the sound of bended, creaking branches. (He's played by a much-costumed Ralph Ineson.) Early in "The Green Knight," he rides on Christmas Day into King Arthur's court, cloaked in shadow, and offers a game. Strike him wherever you want, and he will repay the same stroke a year hence at his Green Chapel.

Gawain, freshly inspired by King Arthur to be ambitious after spending his days drinking and carousing, takes up the challenge and boldly chops off the knight's head. The thrall of victory quickly turns ominous when the Green Knight stands, picks up his head and — with more menace than even an unwanted houseguest promising to return for the holidays — says he'll see the young man next Christmas.

The Green Knight is the color of nature and of death, which here are the same things. Lowery's film, shot on misty Irish plains and dank forests, is earthy, with dirt under its nails, and blanketed in wintry fog. It's both of the land and the ether, poised in a dreamy, mythical long ago. Gawain's quest to visit the Green Knight a year later is a haunting journey into an inescap-

able abyss, a meditation on life and death made with the Green Knight's axe looming.

Lowery, the Texas filmmaker, has a propensity for lyrical legends ( "The Old Man and the Gun," with Robert Redford ) and existential rumination ( "A Ghost Story" ). The latter is a kind of companion piece to "The Green Knight," and both, I think, sometimes use obliqueness to mask an inner vagueness. But few American filmmakers of his generation have been quite as keen to pursue difficult philosophical questions or to stretch cinema in new, quixotic directions.

Just making a movie out of this anonymous, alliterative poem is a wild kind of feat. A tale of chivalry and honor, it belongs to another, medieval world. Its lessons and meanings are somewhat inscrutable and much contested. Only twice before has it been turned into a movie (both by British filmmaker Stephen Weeks, once with Sean Connery as the Green Knight, neither to any acclaim). In King Arthur's Round Table, Gawain is quite notable but he's no Lancelot.

But in Patel's brooding, uncontrived performance, Gawain is remarkably alive as a man — like Patel's David Copperfield — figuring himself out. Lowery opens "The Green Knight" (which a24 opens in theaters Friday) with ornate titles crediting the tale's historic origins — this is a story about stories — but immediately situates "The Green Knight" into a more natural realm and the intimate orbit of Patel's Gawain.

Gawain has none of the experience of Camelot's more famous knights but that's not causing him to lose any sleep. He and Essel (a marvelous, pixie-cut Alicia Vikander) are inseparable, in bed and at Mass. Living with his mother, Morgana (Sarita Choudhury), Gawain is a little like a boy prince who doesn't want to grow up. □



# Bezos loses appeal of NASA's plans to use Musk moon lander

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

The federal government Friday rejected an appeal by billionaire Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin to get in on NASA's plans to return astronauts to the moon by using rival Elon Musk's SpaceX.

NASA in April awarded the \$2.9 billion contract for a lunar lander to the more established SpaceX, which also offered a cheaper price than the bids from Blue Origin and Dynetics Inc., a subsidiary of Leidos. The two losing companies appealed the contract to the Government Accountability Office on the grounds that there should have been multiple contracts and that the proposals weren't evaluated correctly, but the agency rejected their request.

The decision will allow "NASA and SpaceX to establish a timeline for the first crewed landing on the moon in more than 50 years," NASA said in a statement Friday, calling a moon landing a priority of the Biden administration.

Friday's ruling found that even though NASA originally said it was going to give multiple contracts, it didn't have enough money and that awarding only one contract was legal. Plus, it found NASA's evaluation of all three bids "was reasonable, and consistent with applicable procurement law regulation and the announcement terms," according to a statement by GAO lawyer Kenneth Patton.

SpaceX's bid had the highest rating while the other bids "were significantly higher in price" with the space agency deciding it couldn't afford to give out multiple contracts as originally planned, the GAO announcement said. Blue Origin, which has



This is an illustration provided by SpaceX shows the SpaceX Starship human lander design that will carry the first NASA astronauts to the surface of the Moon under the Artemis program.

Associated Press

been trying to get Congress to require a second lander contract, still hopes NASA will change its mind and provide "simultaneous competition," said company spokesperson Linda Mills. "We stand firm in our belief that there were fundamental issues with NASA's decision, but the GAO wasn't able to address them due to their limited jurisdiction," Mills said in a statement. "We continue to advocate for two immediate providers as we believe it is the right solution."

The lunar lander is part of the agency's beyond-Earth exploration plans, refocused on the moon by the Trump administra-

tion. The Artemis program involves a new huge rocket that would launch four astronauts aboard an Orion space capsule to the moon's orbit. The lander would take two astronauts to the moon's surface, where they'd explore for about a week, hook back up with Orion in lunar orbit and return to Earth.

The SpaceX lander, called Starship, "includes a spacious cabin" and can be expanded to a fully reusable launch system for travel to the moon, Mars and other places, NASA said when it awarded the contract.

A test flight of the capsule, without astronauts

aboard, is scheduled for this year, with a test flight by astronauts to the moon — but without a landing — planned for 2023, according to NASA. □



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# Sharks' Kane denies game-fixing allegations from wife

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Hockey Writer

San Jose Sharks forward Evander Kane denied allegations his wife made on social media that he bet on NHL games, including against his own team. Kane responded Sunday morning to allegations made the previous day from the Instagram account of his wife, Anna. "I have NEVER gambled/bet on Hockey, NEVER gambled/bet on a Sharks game, NEVER gambled/bet on any of my games and NEVER thrown a hockey game," he wrote on Twitter. "The facts are I personally had my best season of the my career last year and was the most consistent I've been throughout any season, I'm proud of that. I love the game of Hockey and would never do any of what was alleged. I look forward to cooperating fully with the league's investigation, having my name cleared and looking forward to this upcoming season." The NHL said Saturday night that it was made aware of the social media posts from



In this March 26, 2021, file photo, San Jose Sharks left wing Evander Kane moves the puck during the team's NHL hockey game against the Arizona Coyotes in Glendale, Ariz.

Associated Press

Anna Kane and plans to conduct a full investigation. Anna Kane wrote: "How does the NHL let a compulsive gambling addict still play when he's obviously throwing games to win money? Hmm maybe someone needs to address this." She added: "Can some-

one ask (Commissioner) Gary Bettman how they let a player gamble on his own games? Bet and win with bookies on his own games?" In a separate post, Anna Kane accused her husband of spending lavishly partying in Europe while asking her to sell her wedding ring

to survive and wrote about not being able to afford baby formula for their child. Evander Kane said the two are in the process of getting a divorce and called Anna Kane "mentally unwell." "I love my daughter," he wrote. "I will and always have taken care of my daughter in every way pos-

sible. I have always made sure her mother has had everything she's needed and more. I have tried to de-escalate our divorce issues and be as civil and calm as anyone in this position could. I have tried to set up FaceTime calls but not every day as I would like to because of being restricted by her mom. She has refused me to see her and had unfortunately tried to use my daughter as leverage. I will continue to always take care of my family, that goes without question." Anna Kane later responded on Instagram that she offered to give Kane time to see his daughter alone but said Kane declined. The NHL said: "The integrity of our game is paramount and the League takes these allegations very seriously." A team spokesman wrote in an email to The Associated Press that: "The San Jose Sharks have been in contact today with the National Hockey League about the serious allegations made against Evander Kane." □



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, reacts at practice at the Citi Open tennis tournament, Saturday, July 31, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Rafael Nadal is back after missing Wimbledon and the Tokyo Olympics with a previously undisclosed foot problem, back after not lifting a racket for three weeks. Nadal will return to competition Wednesday night at the Citi Open, making his debut at the hard-court tuneup tournament for the U.S. Open.

And there is no doubt he's the main attraction, of course — from the sign front-and-center atop the main stadium that shows a yelling Nadal above the words, "This is tennis," to the crowds attending his open practice sessions this weekend. Play begins Monday at an event whose field includes young Americans Sebastian Korda, Riley Opelka, Taylor Fritz, Jenson Brooksby

## After time off, Nadal back in action with Washington debut

and Maryland native Frances Tiafoe, along with Nick Kyrgios, Jannik Sinner and Felix Auger-Aliassime. After losing to Novak Djokovic on June 11 in the semifinals of the French Open, where Nadal is a 13-time champion, the 35-year-old Spaniard decided to take a break. Or, as Nadal put it during a video conference with reporters Sunday, "My body decided." "If I had to choose, I will never miss Wimbledon and Olympics. But I was not able to compete in these events after the clay-court season. I had some issues in my foot, so I had to stop playing tennis for around 20 days, not touching a racket for 20 days," he said. "I started slowly, practicing half an hour, then a little bit more. So I went through the

whole process." Does he regret taking all of that time away from the tour, particularly sitting out the fortnight at the All England Club, where Djokovic pulled even with Nadal and Roger Federer by winning a 20th Grand Slam singles title? "That's the right thing to do," Nadal said. "The decision, I think, is the right one." Coming to the nation's capital for the first time allows Nadal to start his preparation for the U.S. Open a week earlier than he usually does. "It's just unbelievable that he came here to D.C.," Tiafoe said. "Having a player of his caliber here is pretty legendary." The year's last Grand Slam tournament begins main-draw play in New York on Aug. 30.

Nadal has won the championship at Flushing Meadows four times, including when he most recently entered the tournament, in 2019. He sat the U.S. Open out a year ago, when it was played with zero spectators amid the pandemic. When Nadal returns there in less than a month, he will be trying to break a tie with Federer and Djokovic by becoming the first man to get to 21 major trophies. The work toward that goal has commenced. "I don't know how long it will take to recover everything, but the only thing I can say is I'm here just to try my best in every single moment," Nadal said. "I hope the last couple of days of practices keep helping me to be competitive enough for the first round." □



# Milestone medals in pool, surprising winner in 100M dash

By **JOSH DUBOW**  
AP Sports Writer

**TOKYO (AP)** — Caeleb Dressel and Emma McKeon earned milestone medals at the Olympic pool before Italian runner Marcell Jacobs was the surprising winner of the race to determine the fastest man in the world.

Jacobs crossed the line in 9.80 seconds on Sunday to bring the sprint gold to Italy for the first time. Jacobs topped Fred Kerley of the United States and Andre DeGrasse of Canada to take the spot held for the past 13 years by the now-retired Usain Bolt. American sprinter Trayvon Bromell came into the Games as the favorite but didn't make it to the final after finishing third in his semifinal heat.

Dressel won two more gold medals to give him five in the Tokyo Olympics, winning the 50-meter freestyle and putting the Americans ahead to stay in the 4x100 medley relay on their way to a world record. "I'm proud of myself. I feel like I reached what my potential was here at these Games," Dressel said. "It was just really fun racing." Dressel joins Americans Michael Phelps, Mark Spitz and Matt Biondi, as well as East Germany's Kristin Otto, as the only swimmers to win as many as five golds at a single Olympics. Phelps did it three times.

McKeon became the first female swimmer and second woman in any sport to claim seven medals at one Olympics. Four of them were gold, the other three bronze.

McKeon won the 50 free and took the butterfly leg on Australia's winning effort in the women's 4x100 medley relay.

The only other woman to win seven — in any sport — was Soviet gymnast Maria Gorokhovskaya, who claimed two golds and five silvers at the 1952 Helsinki Games.

"It still feels very surreal," said McKeon, a 27-year-old from Brisbane. "It's going to take a little bit to sink in. I'm very proud of myself."

## ALL TIED UP

Mutaz Barshim of Qatar and Gianmarco Tamberi of Italy tied for the gold medal in the men's high jump. Both men were clean at every attempt to 2.37 meters and both missed all three attempts at the Olympic record of 2.39.

## RECORD SETTER

Yulimar Rojas of Venezuela set a world record with her final attempt to win the women's triple jump. Rojas finished the competition with a mark of 15.67 meters to break a record set in 1995. Inessa Kravets of Ukraine held the record at 15.50.

## GYMNASTICS MEDALS

Brazilian gymnast Rebeca Andrade has added a gold medal on vault to go with the silver she earned in the



**Lamont Jacobs, right, of Italy, wins the men's 100-meter final at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021, in Tokyo.**

Associated Press

all-around.

Andrade put together a pair of soaring vaults to post an average of 15.083. The medals Andrade has won in Tokyo are the first two for Brazil in gymnastics at the Games.

American gymnast MyKayla Skinner, who entered the competition after defending Olympic champion Simone Biles pulled out to focus on her mental health, captured the silver.

USA Gymnastics said Biles has also opted not to compete on floor exercise. She won gold in the event in Rio de Janeiro and placed second in qualifying last week. Jennifer Gadirova of Britain will replace Biles in Monday's finals.

Biles has not decided whether to participate in Tuesday's balance beam final, USA Gymnastics said. Max Whitlock of Britain defended his Olympic title in pommel horse and Artem Dolgopyat won Israel's first ever Olympic medal in artistic gymnastics.

Nina Derwael of Belgium won the gold medal in the uneven bars and Olympic all-around gymnastics champion Sunisa Lee added a bronze medal to her haul in Tokyo. □

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If you're looking for a phenomenal dinner experience that has all the ingredients for a wonderful gastronomic night, then you should book at least one night of your stay at Water's Edge Restaurant. Designed to pamper all your senses and cover all of your needs with an amazing staff to attend to your every wish, whether in the fine dining room or under a palapa with your toes in the sand.

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Kick start the night with a great, refreshing and most delicious cocktail mixed with concoctions before the grand tour of an extraordinary culinary experience. Start your journey with an exquisite appetizer such as the daily fresh made Water's Edge ceviche or maybe a world known jumbo shrimp cocktail followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as the Spicy Caribbean Seafood pasta, Mahi Mahi or pan fried Red Snapper served with Aruban creole sauce or garlic lemon butter. For the carnivores among us there are choices of 8 ounce seasoned Filet Mignon, 12 ounce Rib Eye steak or a French Rack of Lamb

seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, co-



conut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans. Whether it is the best seafood, steaks, chicken, pasta, or your continental favorites the reasonably priced menu offers a modern twist and features generous portions and Chef's specials.

## Creating memories

Planning a birthday or anniversary dinner? Water's Edges Restaurants gives you the perfect gift. Here, you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

## Live entertainment:

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. On Monday & Saturday, Angela Flores, will delight you with her violin. Tuesday, Jean Paul, Saxophonist, will get you moving. On Wednesday's and Sunday's singer Paula Ridderstap will make you sing along to all her tunes. Thursday's and Friday's

guitarist Ricky Thomas will make you find your groove. And also on Sunday's Tico Kock will make you dance away to the sounds of his steel drum. Whether you're in a romantic mood or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you. In addition, the best happy hour in Aruba happens right here. Water's Edge Restaurant offers three Happy Hours daily (12 noon – 1 pm, 4 pm – 6 pm, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres served by circulating staff, and again from 9 pm – 10 pm) with all premium brands specially priced.

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